



DON'T BE A VICTIM OF AUTO THEFT & BURGLARY

Over the past 20 years, the nation has seen a steady decline in vehicle theft. However, auto burglaries have increased in cities and neighborhoods across the country- and Louisiana is no exception. To turn a quick profit, thieves have begun to focus on taking valuable items left in cars rather than taking the cars themselves.

Below are steps you can take to protect yourself and your property from car thieves and burglars.

AT HOME



Whether day or night, in the driveway or garage, always lock your vehicle, close the windows and activate the alarm.



If you have a garage, use it and lock it up.



Install motion detector lights in the proximity of your driveway, carport or garage.



Don't keep items with personal info in your vehicle, such as:



Cell phone



Laptop or Tablet



Portable DVD Players



Credit/Debit Cards or Checkbook



House Keys



ID Cards (e.g. work badge, gym membership badge)



Mail with Personal/Financial Information



Don't store guns or ammunition in your vehicle. If you insist on keeping a gun in your vehicle, keep it locked in the glove box or center console.



Keep an eye out for any suspicious activity such as strange cars cruising slowly around the neighborhood and report it to your homeowner association, neighborhood watch group or the police.

If you can, make note of the vehicle:

- make, model and color
- license plate
- occupant descriptions

AWAY FROM HOME



No matter where you are and how safe you think the area is, always lock the doors and use the alarm.



No matter how hot it is outside, always close the windows completely. Use window shades as a means to try to keep the inside cooler.



Always keep possessions out of sight, especially bags and packages. Even if you feel the contents aren't valuable, a burglar doesn't know what's inside and will be tempted to find out.

YOU BECOME A VICTIM



Contact local law enforcement immediately.



Inform your homeowner association or apartment/condominium complex staff of any incidents of attempted or successful vehicle break-ins.



Spread word of the incident through social networks such as Nextdoor, Facebook and Twitter to alert others in the community to be aware of the threat of car burglary.

Contact the Louisiana Department of Insurance at 1-800-259-5300

This public document is produced by the Louisiana Department of Insurance and is available online.